

MAYOR STEPHEN R. REED ANNOUNCES THE HARRISBURG URBAN INITIATIVE

"This group of highly talented community leaders will focus their resources to have a results-oriented impact on our schools."

(Harrisburg, PA) - Harrisburg Mayor Stephen R. Reed announced the organization of the Harrisburg Urban Initiative (HUI) at the first annual youth art recognition awards reception which showcased the work of Harrisburg public school students at the Dauphin County Courthouse last week.

As part of the ongoing efforts to improve city schools, Mayor Reed formed the HUI, a group of area community, business and professional leaders who provide volunteer support and assistance to the Harrisburg School District.

"This art exhibit is the first project of Urban Initiative and I would like to take this opportunity to publicly announce the Harrisburg Urban Initiative," Mayor Reed said during his speech at the reception. "This is a group of creative and committed leaders who provide effective support from outside the system to improve our schools." He said. "They are focused on projects, like this event this evening, which have immediate positive results throughout the system."

Fifty-six students and their teachers were recognized for their award winning artwork and each received a \$50 savings bond, and eight finalists, one from each grade, received a \$300 saving bond sponsored by Crabtree, Rohrbaugh and Associates.

The HUI board of directors includes, Senator Jeffrey E. Piccola, Dauphin County Commissioner Jeffrey T. Haste, Harrisburg School District Superintendent Dr. Gerald W. Kohn, business executive Robert J. Philbin, Attorney Guy P. Beneventano and communications executive Victoria L. Radabaugh.

"Through projects like the youth art exhibit, the Harrisburg Urban Initiative will encourage and support the social, cultural and academic advancement of Harrisburg public school students in a variety of ways," said Guy Beneventano, Chairperson and



Mayor Reed's Harrisburg Urban Initiative strives to improve Harrisburg's Public Schools.

President of the Harrisburg Urban Initiative. "We coordinate resources to help change the district in ways the city and the district cannot."

Beneventano said The Harrisburg Urban Initiative Board of Directors has elected the following officers: President, Guy P. Beneventano, Esq.; Vice President, Senator Jeffrey E. Piccola, Secretary, Victoria L. Radabaugh and Treasurer, Robert J. Philbin.



Mayor Reed presented Harrisburg Public School Students with certificates and awards during the HUI Youth Art Exhibit reception.

Additionally, the following Committees and chairpersons were appointed to integrate services within the school system in different areas: Health Care Services Committee, Victoria L. Radabaugh, Chairperson; Business & Corporate Committee, Senator Jeffrey E. Piccola, Chairperson; The Arts & Culture Committee, Lindsey E. Philbin, Chairperson.

In conjunction with WITF, the Harrisburg Urban Initiative is sponsoring the PBS documentary, *The Rural Studio Film*, April 7th, 8:00 PM. Following the airing of film, WITF-TV will host a live, 60-minute discussion by a panel of distinguished architects and planners focusing on topics related to replicating the work of the Rural Studio in central Pennsylvania.

The panel, which will include Harrisburg Mayor Stephen R. Reed, Auburn University's Rural Studio Director Professor Bruce Lindsey, and other prominent architects and experts, will explore how Auburn's innovative studio approach to creating a design-build environment in distressed neighborhoods applies in south central Pennsylvania.

The program is generously underwritten by Carlisle SynTec Corporation, the Harrisburg law firm Nauman Smith Shissler & Hall, Hershey Philbin Associates, and The Pennsylvania Chapter of the AIA.

For further information, please contact Nathan Pigott, npigott@hersheyphilbin.com (717) 975-2148, or any board member.

###